



### From the Director of Victim Services

On Thursday December 3, 2020, we celebrated our 18th Annual Tennessee to Remember event. Due to the pandemic, we held the event virtually and it was a success! The event took place at the First Baptist Church in downtown Nashville and was streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/firstbaptistchurchnashville>. TDOC Victim Services collaborated with the Office of the State Attorney General, Board of Parole, Tennessee Bureau of

Investigation, District Attorneys General Conference, Department of Finance of Administration's Office of Criminal Justice Programs, Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Tennessee Rehabilitative Initiative (TRICOR), Secretary of State's Office, State Treasurer's Office, and victim advocacy groups You Have the Power and Tennessee Voices for Victims to host the event.

Music for the event was provided by Victor Wynn, Executive Pastor and Minister of Worship at The Temple Church. The keynote speaker was April Armstrong and our emcee was Valencia Wicker with WKRN News 2.

Check out photos from the event at <https://www.flickr.com/gp/139218170@No8/7o28oU>

Happy Holidays!

*Tamika Dobbins*

### December 2020

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### Victim Services Mission

*To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.*

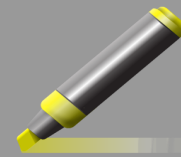
#### Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

#### Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

# Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet



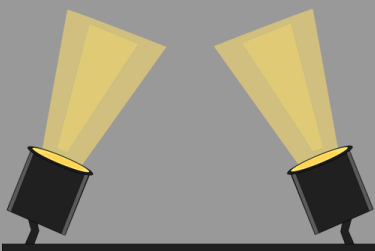
Debra Robinson is the Victim Witness Coordinator for the 10th Judicial District Attorney's Office for District Attorney Stephen D. Crump, in Cleveland, Tennessee. She has been employed with the State of Tennessee for 12 years. Debra is from Riceville, Tennessee, where she attended Riceville Elementary School, probably the third or fourth African American student to enroll there. She is a 1986 graduate of McMinn County High School, 1989 graduate of Draughon's Business College with an associate degree in Court Reporting, where she received Student of the Quarter, being the first graduate of the newly implemented court reporting program. She later graduated from Cleveland State Community College in 2005 with a degree in Legal Assistant Studies, where she was awarded the Minority Student Association Leadership Award that year, and recognized in "Who's Who Among Students." Debra has attended the Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy, which allowed her to attain the NOVA certification and the District Attorney General Conference VWC Certification. She has received extensive training in NOVA Crisis Response, Vicarious Trauma and self-care, domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, elder abuse, sexual assault, mass violence, also homicide training, and gang violence. Debra is a member of their District Attorney Leadership Team, the Human Trafficking District Task Force, and the Child Fatality Review Board. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Family Resource Agency

in Cleveland, Tennessee, as well as a member of the NAACP Bradley County Chapter.

In October, she was selected to join the State District Attorney General Conference Victim/Witness Steering Committee, Debra stated she is very excited to assist victims statewide now. She was recently chosen to participate in the "Well Kept Woman" ministry video and panel out of Chattanooga, TN, to share her story of domestic violence. Debra is very passionate about raising awareness for domestic violence, because it was something she could relate to. She has a dream and aspiration to open a domestic abuse facility for victims that is more than just a domestic abuse shelter. We need a facility that encourages more healing and restoration from what the victim has endured being in a domestic violent relationship with a romantic partner, family member, or friend. Debra has a passion for the work she does every day, because she is usually the first person meeting a new crime victim, from a bad circumstance, after being victimized. It gives me an opportunity to comfort them, and I truly believe that's my purpose in life. I establish a relationship with victims until the disposition of the case. Something I say often, "People just need to know someone cares about what's happened to them."

Debra is married to Edward Robinson, Jr. whose family relocated here from Massachusetts when he was nine years old. Her husband is a full time Pastor at Mt. Eagle Baptist Church in Charleston, TN., and she is the Youth Pastor there, as well. Debra has two sons, and a step-daughter, a daughter-in-law, a 4 year old grandson named Shia and grandpuppy, named Koda. Her oldest Son, Dominique, resides in Atlanta, a fashion designer, with his own clothing line; daughter-in-law, Jessica is a Product Marketing Supervisor for UPS and models in her spare time. My youngest Son, Damaris is employed with AT&T retail and real estate in Knoxville, he just finished his MBA at Lincoln Memorial University. Her step-daughter, Taloria, attended ETSU and is currently a personal shopper at Walmart. Debra states her parents, Paul and Jean Crenshaw and grandparents, Chester and Eula Smith had the biggest impact on her life. She and her two younger brothers, who are successful business owners, saw their family as role models. They taught us to love God first, ourselves secondly, and thirdly, love people! We were taught to help hurting people, and try to do what we could to make it "better" for them, which has taken us all very far in life. Debra has a huge family, and she says they are all very close, and it was always emphasized to not judge people, because no one is perfect. You love people and be a walking example of what it means to be "Christ-like."

Debra's hobbies include yardwork, doing outside activities and exercise, traveling when she has the opportunity. Most of all, she loves and enjoys spending time with family and friends.



## Coping with the Holidays

Grieving during the holidays is difficult. Especially the first holiday cycle after the passing of a loved one. Whatever your age, whatever the cause of death, holidays lived in the absence of a loved one can be a very difficult time. Customary routines are ended, never to be repeated in quite the same way. Easy-going laughter, once flowing so naturally, may become awkward or even altogether missing. Gift-giving, once so filled with fun, may seem somehow empty and sad. Familiar songs, once so comforting, may catch in your throat or bring tears to your eyes.

The best way to approach a holiday is to find ways to make it personally meaningful while acknowledging events, feelings, and circumstances. Thinking beforehand about what may be helpful to make the holidays easier and better and what might make them harder, can be beneficial. Here are a few tips that may help survivors and their support system.

- Choose to celebrate or not.
- Spend time with those who are helpful, supportive, understanding, patient, and caring.

Consider starting a new tradition or activity that is comfortable and enjoyable. Celebrate in ways that are meaningful and helpful. Maintain existing family traditions only where desired.



### TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls	November	Notifications	November
Phone calls Received/Returned	83	Registrations/Voice	93
Parties Registered for Notifications	119	Movement	79
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	7	Advance Release	999
Referrals	7	Final Release *	74
Release/Parole Inquiry	22	Death	12
Other	45	Other	18

# Announcements



## WOMEN IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

**January 22, 2021**

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Discussion topics will include:

- Legal Updates
- Recruitment and Retention
- Access to Justice
- Human Trafficking

Participants may earn continuing legal education credit and will have an opportunity to network with other women in criminal justice from local and state law enforcement agencies, corrections, and attorneys practicing in the field.

### Register Online:

[Click here to Register](#)

Cost is \$150/person

### For event questions, contact:

Tanya Washington at  
[tanya.washington@tennessee.edu](mailto:tanya.washington@tennessee.edu)  
or 615-532-3731



WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund - 615.741.2734

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